

Supervisor's report

on B.A. thesis by Jana Severová, “Young African American Women and their Environment: Contemporary African American Feminine Identities, Political Views and the Sense of Security”

In her B.A. thesis, Severová focuses on three novels by African American writers: *Such a Fun Age* by Kiley Reid, *Nightcrawling* by Leila Mottley and *The Other Black Girl* by Zakiya Dalila Harris. The document includes eighty-eight pages - an Introduction, three chapters discussing the above-mentioned books, a Conclusion, and a Bibliography.

The thesis is well-structured, lucid and coherent. Stylistically, it is well-written and convincing. Severová's argumentation is apt, backed with quotations from relevant secondary sources. The thesis presented at the beginning of Severová's work is clear, while her conclusion sums up all the main ideas and findings from the individual chapters. The themes of the three chapters - i.e. feelings of security, political identity, and African American feminine identity - are explored in detail and analyzed properly. Severová uses the method of close-reading of fiction, primarily, while also engaging other texts related to historical context, various definitions of security, racism, code-switching, formation of identity, and even statistics regarding recent elections in the US.

However, there is one serious problem with the B.A. thesis. There are several direct quotations in the thesis that are referenced as if they were paraphrases. The first chapter of the thesis includes various instances of these mistakes (i.e. there is a direct quotation of Gentry's text without a proper reference after every sentence (p. 12), plus, on p. 19, Masad's quotation is not correctly referenced. Furthermore Grady's quotations are not properly cited on p. 30, 31 and 32. On p. 35, the definition of “The Black Panther Party” appears to be a paraphrase while the wording shows that it is a direct quotation).

On submission, the thesis was checked through Turnitin, which found a 29 percent similarity with other texts. That would not be such a problem if the citations were marked correctly.

Therefore, I have to recommend to the committee that the thesis be withdrawn and re-submitted for the next exam date. It will give Severová enough time to make necessary citational adjustments and produce a revised version. As a supervisor, I am sorry that I did not run the thesis through Turnitin myself first (but I plan to do that in the future).

Blanka Maderová, PhD.

June 2nd, 2023